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Published by Sun Media Publishing Inc. • Issue No. 38 Volume 16

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■ AGRICULTURE: Piles of paperwork, unpredictable weather take toll

Pelham family farms fighting for survival

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — With unpredictable weather, long hours and plenty of paperwork, there are no shortage of pitfalls faced by the fruit farmers of Pelham.

And although challenges may come by the bushel, farmers' love for their lifestyle and desire to keep family tradition alive keep the industry afloat despite shaky times.

"It's been really rough this year, the worst experience we've had," said Beth Secord of Mathias Farms in Ridgeville.

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The Effingham St. farm was hit hard this season by unconventional weather.

"We had freak warm weather in March, then a cold snap that killed the blossoms," said Secord, the farm's owner and manager.

The summer's drought offered yet another hurdle to overcome.

"We were blessed with a 20% crop. Some of my neighbours had nothing," she said.

Despite the hardships presented this season, Secord, who has been manning the farm for 30 years, remains "optimistic for the future" of farming. Campaigns such as the 100-kilometre diet have been encouraging Ontarians to eat local — a trend she hopes to see continue in the years to come.

"In my little pocket of the world, I think we're progressing — just not fast enough," she said of local support of the industry.

Secord said she gets great support for her produce, particularly at Pelham Farmers' Market.

"I like to think we're moving in the right direction," she said.

see FRUIT FIGHT | page 2

■ FAIR-EST BABY SHOW



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

At only 10 months old, Amelia Newman has already claimed her first red ribbon. She placed first in the girls six to 12 months category at the Niagara Regional Exhibition's Fair-est Baby Show on Saturday.



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■ FRUIT FIGHT

'Regular, faithful customers' help farms thrive

FROM PAGE 1

The closure of Ontario canneries, however, has been a major setback for small farmers in the province, she added.

Adding a processing facility to help bring in further income is just what Cherry Country Connection in Ridgeville did about 18 years ago, Janssen said.

"It was a win for us to diversify," owner Chuck Janssen said of his Tiee Rd. farm.

"There are less and less processors out there."

Though processing has been happening on site at Janssen's farm for nearly 20 years, red tape put in place by the government has made it increasingly difficult to stay afloat.

"With all the paperwork we have to do, it's getting harder and harder," he said, sharing

fears all those extra hurdles will eventually "put the small guys out of business."

Now, there are so many forms to fill out and data to collect that the farm has even considered hiring someone solely for that — but the operation is just too small to handle the entire time, Janssen said.

He believes there will be less and less small farms in operation in the future.

"Unless you grow up with it, there's not a lot of incentives," he said of the farming life, adding many of the farms now in existence are passed down through generations.

Joe Hojzan is one of those rare farmers who did not grow up in the rural lifestyle.

Nineteen years ago he traded his job as a sewing machine

mechanic in Montreal for the role of fruit farmer in Ridgeville.

"I did not know a thing. Not even how to turn the tractor key," he said with a laugh.

But hard work and dedication paid off. Hojzan and wife Terese now run the successful Town and Country Farm on Canboro Rd.

Despite the farm's popularity, Hojzan's children, who are pursuing other careers, are not interested in taking over the farm after the couple retires. Hojzan feels his farm and many others will meet a similar fate with no one to run them in the future. Until that time comes, his plan is to continue providing quality produce to his loyal customers.

"We have a lot of good customers. They're like family. That's what keeps you going," he said.

"Customers are important to us like we are important to them," he said.

"Farmers feed cities, but without customers, you are nothing."

Carol Williams, who runs Williams Orchards with husband Jim, has found herself with a similar fate — no one to run the popular farm after retirement comes year down the road.

Though she fears the disappearance of small farms, she does feel younger generations are becoming more health-



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Sarah McGrath of Williams Orchards stands among some of the fruits and vegetables available at the Pelham St. fruit stand.

conscious and hopes the trend will spark further interest in eating local.

It's the "regular, faithful customers" who have helped the Pelham St. farm to thrive, Williams said.

"We've had a good life farming," she said, "and it's all due to our clientele."

Though apples are, of course, the farm's specialty, they also sell other fruits and vegetables. "It's not if you have a little variety," Williams said.

Sam Itody knows all about the importance of variety.

Though he doesn't grow

fruit at Holle Maple Farms in Fenwick, he does sell it there and at local farmers' markets. He found it necessary to branch out and offer locally-grown fruit at his Church St. stand to keep up with his competition.

"We do it to bring in more people. You have to bring in stuff to have a stand. You need variety. We all have to do that."

Despite the success of his six-generation farm, Itody believes the future offers a "bleak outlook" for farming in Ontario.

"What hits us the most are

imports," he said, adding while he doesn't import produce in the cooler months, he believes only local produce should be in stores during the harvest season.

"It's definitely hurting the farmers."

"We get no support from the federal and provincial governments for agriculture," Itody said, scolding the upper tiers for supporting other industries and leaving farmers in the dark.

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Joe Hojzan of Town and Country Farm picks fresh apples from a tree to stock his Canboro Rd. fruit stand.

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Jeffs worried about Wainfleet access to critical care; Pelham may gravitate to St. Catharines

Niagara Falls is not in the south: Badawey

DAVE JOHNSON
PelhamNEWS Staff

POR T COLBORNE — Locating a new "south Niagara" hospital in Niagara Falls "is not in the south," says Mayor Vance Badawey.

Badawey was reacting to a report from Kevin Smith — the supervisor appointed the province to oversee Niagara Health System — released Friday that recommends a new hospital be built at the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd.

"Quite frankly, it's absolutely absurd that a new hospital be built in the northern part of the region," said Badawey.

Like Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs, he considers south Niagara to consist of Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Welland, Pelham and Wainfleet.

Port Colborne's mayor said the city, along with local doctors and clinics, have been doing a lot of work to enhance primary health care in Niagara and align it with his city's urgent care centre.

"We've been working with all of south Niagara ... health care should not have boundaries."

The mayor said it's why the city created South Niagara Health Corp., which has seen Fort Erie, Wainfleet and Welland councils make recommendations to come on board. Badawey said Pelham has been invited to join as well, but has yet to make a decision.

Port Colborne will continue to work on enhancing primary care and will be able to put forth a solid, credible position, Badawey said, on where a new hospital should be built.

"I respect Dr. Smith, but he's only been here a year ... we've been working on this



Dr. Kevin Smith is about to send his final report to Health Minister Deb Matthews recommending the new location of a hospital in south Niagara.

for four years," he said.

A new south Niagara hospital located in Niagara Falls could "very well be the second mistake made in Niagara with respect to location" for a hospital, said Badawey referring to the West St. Catharines hospital and cancer centre site.

The mayor said even if Niagara Falls were part of south Niagara, a new hospital at Lyons Creek Rd. and the QEW still wouldn't make sense.

"Residents have said to me all along, 'How does a hospital in Niagara Falls make sense? It's not fair to the rest of the municipalities ... we're all going to suffer, it's frustrating.'



Augustyn



Jeffs

Badawey, adding he believes other south Niagara mayors would agree with him.

Jeffs said the location proposed by Smith is a losing one for Wainfleet residents.

"Residents have said to me all along, 'How does a hospital in Niagara Falls make sense? It's not fair to the rest of the municipalities ... we're all going to suffer, it's frustrating.'

My residents are going to be angry," he said.

If the province moves forward with a new hospital in Niagara Falls, Jeffs said urgent care centres proposed by Smith in his report should include at least one located closer to Wainfleet.

"That still doesn't do anything for us for critical care."

Jeffs said she'd join forces with whoever wants to fight against the proposal to "fight this wrong."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn was still working his way through the lengthy report when contacted Friday afternoon.

The location chosen for the proposed hospital is one of two suggested sites that south

JULIE JOCSAK Standard Staff

Niagara mayors came up with, said Augustyn. The mayors, he added, worked with Niagara EMS and people at the region in the transportation and GIS departments.

"That site will be complemented by two urgent care sites in Niagara, as opposed to the one in Smith's interim report," he said, hoping at least one would be located close to Pelham.

Augustyn also said Pelham residents may gravitate toward the new St. Catharines hospital, which is proposed one in Niagara Falls.

One thing the mayor was glad to see in Smith's report is obstetric and pediatric departments being part of a new Niagara Falls hospital.

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RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN NHS SUPERVISOR KEVIN SMITH'S FINAL REPORT

- Construction of a new general acute care hospital in Niagara Falls in the area of the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd.

- Locate two free-standing urgent care centres in south Niagara.

- Close hospitals in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Welland.

- Consolidate obstetrics, pediatrics and in-patient mental health at the new St. Catharines hospital in the interim. Move obstetrics and pediatrics to a new Niagara Falls hospital when completed.

- Niagara Region and intersectoral elder agencies are to establish a limited transportation model for low-income, frail seniors and chronic mental health patients and their families.

- Expand the advanced-care paramedic program across the region.

- Create a new skills-based NHS board of directors and a community-based nominating committee to recommend board appointments.

- The NHS should establish a patient advisory committee to ensure the continued evolution of patient- and family-centred care.

- National searches should be undertaken to recruit a chief executive officer and vice-president medical/chief of staff for the NHS.

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Pelham News

Published by PelhamNEWS

Sun Media Corp.

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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Spend hockey dollars at home

If you are a hockey fan in the early stages of withdrawal symptoms, I sympathize.

It's hard to believe multi-millionaire corporations are fighting with millionaire hockey players over how to slice a growing pile of money.

The solution so far, for the owners, is to lockout the players.

For the fans, the reaction is understandable – outrage.

The operators of a website, Youhaveweweeks.com, suggest a boycott. It's not of the NHL, which wouldn't make sense. It's of other companies owned by team owners.

As a Montreal Canadiens fan, it will have to be reconsidering the beer I buy, Molsons/Coors Beer Company through Geoff Molson owns the Habs.

I will especially think twice the next time I'm in a pub watching what will be substituted for hockey games.

If you're a Leaf or Sabres fan, you can switch off TV and radio stations and cell phones. Rogers and Bell have pieces of the Leafs. The Sabres owners Black River Music Group.

However, when it comes to hockey, the National Hockey League isn't the only game in town.

In fact, in Niagara, it isn't in town at all.

This is a good time to reacquaint yourself with local hockey.

Pelham has exciting minor hockey teams. The Pelham Arena isn't exactly the Air Canada Centre, but the atmosphere can be more exciting.

The Niagara IceDogs junior team almost reached the Memorial Cup last year.

Enjoy the team, show your regional presence so they won't foolishly change their name.

St. Kitts crackers are putting on the pressure to change the name to the St. Catharines IceDogs.

Revered junior club at the minor leagues, Niagara has a highly competitive junior B team. It has teams in Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Stoney Creek and Buffalo.

If enough of us rediscover local hockey, revenues will stay home.

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comment

■ REGIONAL VIEW: Brian Baty

The route to prosperity and jobs in Niagara

This article continues from the last with some specific data and directions that can impact Niagara's economic future. The economic future will create jobs in one of three ways.

Up to 80% of jobs and investment comes from existing businesses so planned economic supports should be in place to maintain and enhance current Niagara businesses. The second way to create jobs is through foreign direct investment such as has been demonstrated by the new wind tower business located in the former Hayes-Dana plant in Thorold, China. India and Brazil are emerging energy markets and investment is due in part to the rising costs of transportation.

The third way to provide jobs comes from start-ups that are driven by innovation and matching their enterprise to specific locations.

Personally I hold out strong hope on the research developments at the Vineland Research Centre and the new Bio-Medical Science facility at Brock University. I can foresee a time where the optimal climate and soils of Niagara facilitate the development of yet-to-be invented nutraceuticals or pharmaceuticals.

Nobody should hope in the return of large manufacturing enterprises. Innovative and creative enterprises such as Accipiter



Brian Baty

REGIONAL COUNCIL VIEW

Technology point the way to future high paying employment. Accipiter has located in Pelham on the highest elevation on the escarpment and uses scientific algorithms to allow radar technology to detect certain species.

Imagine the savings in agriculture if bird control and detection could be done when a certain species is in sight. Also imagine the safety impact of this technology in preventing airplane crashes caused by flocks of migrating birds.

There are some emerging economic indicators that should give rise to hope. Unemployment has dropped from over 10% in 2009 and is forecasted to reach 6% by 2016. Per capita income is predicted to rise approximately 10% in that same interval.

But, for the poor the story is different.

The 2012 average household income in Niagara is \$79,640 well below the Ontario average of \$87,260.

The low income cut-off (LICO) is \$28,430

per year while a family with two children on Ontario Works receives \$13,632 a year and there are currently 10,692 cases on Ontario Works involving 22,024 individuals.

In education we exceed the provincial average for high school completion, and apprenticeship or trade certification but lag Ontario by 7.3% for university completion. What is most distressing is the drain of youth from our region as they seek high paying jobs outside Niagara. The renewed emphasis on job creation and prosperity must clear a path for youth to remain in Niagara.

A community that retains only the poor and attracts the retirees is not sustainable and it is clear that Niagara must take steps to focus needs to rebalance these demographics.

The region lobbied hard to get the province to designate the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre in Niagara and we continue to press government to provide the necessary infrastructure for rail, marine, highway and air transport of goods and services.

A brighter future will emerge as all these directions take place but that transformation of Niagara's economy will take considerable time to materialize.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham. brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

■ MAYORAL VIEW: Dave Augustyn

New southern hospital, two new urgent care clinics

Last Friday, Dr. Kevin Smith, the provincially-appointed supervisor of the Niagara Health System (NHS), presented his final report regarding NHS restructuring to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care.

Among the 23 final recommendations, Dr. Smith suggested that the province construct a new hospital "in the QEW and Lyons Creek area of Niagara." He suggested that the new "South Hospital" should include emergency and critical care, the regional stroke centre, the regional geriatrics program, the total joint replacement centre, general internal medicine and surgical services, complex care, and maternal child / in-patient pediatrics.

Smith also recommended operating two new facilities "in the northern tier" in "Southern Niagara" – sites and locations to be determined – and closing the existing facilities in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Welland, and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

You will recall that in May, Dr. Smith asked the "mayors of the 'Southern Tier'" with input from the regional chair* to come to a unanimous recommendation for the



Dave Augustyn

MAYORAL VIEW

locations of the new hospital and one, stand-alone urgent care centre by mid-June.

The six southern mayors – Vance Badaway, Port Colborne; Jim Diodati, Niagara Falls; April Jeffs, Wainfleet; Doug Martin, Fort Erie; Barry Sharpe, Welland; and myself – and Regional Chair Gay Burroughs met five times and reviewed population densities, ambulance call volumes, drive times, municipal infrastructure, NHS referrals, and ER usage.

We came to a unanimous decision and recommended two geographic areas for the new "Southern" hospital – generally described as the QEW and Lyons Creek area, and the East Main Street and Highway 140 area. We also recommended that the NHS operate two urgent care centres.

I am pleased that Dr. Smith honoured the mayors' and regional chair's unanimous

recommendations for siting of a new hospital and for the operation of two urgent care centres to serve South Niagara.

I did communicate with Dr. Smith directly about the potential location of the Lyons Creek / QEW location for Pelham residents.

When the province builds a new hospital there, it seems likely that many Pelham residents will travel instead to the new northern hospital.

When he wrote back to me on Friday morning, Dr. Smith reaffirmed his earlier position: "I can absolutely confirm that Pelham residents will be provided care at site they choose to use. If that is the North site we will welcome them there."

I sincerely appreciate the significant and comprehensive work by Dr. Smith. I will now work together with colleagues from across the region to develop the provincial government's plan to build the new facilities and embrace, as Dr. Smith writes, "...a new era focused on creating a sustainable, high quality health system" for all of Niagara.

You may contact Mayor Dave Augustyn at mayor.dave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayor.dave.blogspot.com

■ HERITAGE: Demonstration at Saturday meeting

Library puts historical calendars online

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

For 25 years ending in 2001, the Pelham Historical Society published calendars containing articles about the people, places and events that shaped the town.

It's a key resource for anyone interested in local history. The calendars are out of print but copies are in the Pelham Public Library, which also houses the society's historical collection.

Now, thanks to a joint summer project by the library and society the calendars are online.

They're accessible from the Pelham Public Library's website www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca. The library setup a website named Ontario's History, a valuable source for historical research. From the library website, a researcher can go directly via www.vitacollections.ca/pelhamlocalhistory or through www.onario.ca.

On Saturday, library technical service manager Jo-Anne Teeuwsen will explain the project during a 2:30 p.m. meeting of the historical society at the library's Fonthill branch.

With a grant from Canada Summer Jobs, the society hired a student, Sean Lewis, to scan, upload and annotate all the calendar images and descriptions on the new website.

All 25 years of the calendars are fully

searchable," said Teeuwsen.

Pelham historian Mary Lamb said the calendars were the personal project of Catherine Rice, a founder of the historical society.

"For years, she typed the stories on a typewriter," Lamb said after doing research that included talking to owners of homes mentioned on the articles.

"She'd be amazed to see this system," she said.

Saturday's meeting will also include a talk by Welland historian Terry Hughes who will discuss ways to get students interested in history.

The retired teacher said you have to show them "what's out there in their own community."

He suggested walking, bike and bus tours.

In Pelham, he said, you have an odd situation where many residents come from outside the town. Parents are unfamiliar with local history.

The town's crest with the Comfort maple is good place to start, he said.

Few people realize the original trolley station was moved from Station St., he said. It is enclosed in a storage building on the road leading into Marlene Stewart Park.

Saturday's meeting is open to the public.

wayne.campbell@sunmedia.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL/Staff Photo

Jo-Anne Teeuwsen of Pelham Public Library, left, and Mary Lamb of Pelham Historical Society show a website display of a Pelham historical calendar. The library provides a searchable collection of the calendars on its website, www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca. During a meeting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the library, Teeuwsen will explain and demonstrate the new feature.

■ CHILI COOKOFF RAISES MONEY



DAVE HANUSCHKA/Staff Photo

Funds raised during the Niagara Food Festival firefighters chili cookoff were recently turned over to Niagara Region Children's Safety Village. A total of \$580.74 was raised from donations made by festival patrons sampling chili made by participating fire departments. The contest sponsored by Country Corner Market named Niagara Falls Fire Department as winner. Pictured from left are food festival board members Ruth Nixon and Rhonda Chopin; Country Corner Market's Maegan Lowes and Rick Lowes; and Nikki O'Carroll and Logan Cordiner representing the safety village.

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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Thousands of tickets sold for Harley draw

Bike enthusiasts fill the park

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — The sun wasn't the only thing shining on Saturday.

Rob Lupton worked feverishly to ensure every inch of his 2007 Bourget Dragon Softail chopper sparked.

The bright green motorcycle could easily be seen across the field at Centennial Park, where the Fabulous Fenwick Lions' 10th annual Biketoberfest was underway.

This was the first year Lupton, a motorcycle enthusiast from Hamilton, entered one of his rides into the festival's show and shine event.

It wasn't, however, his first time making the trip to Fenwick for the show — and it certainly won't be his last.

"It's a good time. We'll be here every year," said Lupton, who first attended in 2011.

Many people from Niagara and beyond return to Biketoberfest annu-

ally, said organizer Bruce Bissell. He anticipated about 8,000 people would visit Centennial Park by the event's end.

With hundreds, if not thousands, of bikes to peruse, more than 50 vendor booths to browse, and live entertainment to keep the crowd moving, the day offers something for everyone, Bissell said.

It's an event that is always changing and growing, which helps to keep people coming back, he added.

One of the highlights of the day, which had more than 100 bikers keeping things heated, was the show for 2012 Harley-Davidson CVO Street Glide. Thousands of tickets were sold for the bike raffle, which greatly assists the Lions' fundraising efforts.

Proceeds from Biketoberfest will be divided among the Lions Foundation of Canada, Hospice Niagara and the Fenwick Lions Community Projects.

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MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Rob Lupton, of Hamilton, readies his chopper for the show and shine competition at Biketoberfest on Saturday.

■ BIG MOVE 100-KILOMETRE CANCER RIDE

SUPPLIED PHOTO

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DR. ANDREW W. TAYLOR
M.A., FRCR, FRCOphth, FRCR, FRCR

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including LASIK, PRK, and LASIK with custom ablations to date. In addition to his work at Lasik Provision, Dr. Taylor is an active member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik Provision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable Lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor established Lasik Provision in 2001 as a founding principal of Lasik Vision, which went on to expand its services across North America. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus more on refractive potential and to return to his roots in Niagara Falls. In 2006, Dr. Taylor moved to London, Ontario, Canada, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from LASIK or PRK. Dr. Taylor has developed a unique technique for the LASIK flap which makes better use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap and which has a much smoother surface. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better visual outcomes, it also eliminates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which were, for many patients, the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive laser eye surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in laser eye surgery." Dr. Taylor has also been involved in the development of the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1996, Vision Works in 1998, and the development of the Ziemer platform in 2000. At Lasik Provision, we are the only centre in the Niagara Peninsula to offer the Allegretto platform, but we are increasingly shifting to the Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the VisuMax femtosecond laser. This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the best visual outcomes. We are also the only centre in the Niagara Peninsula to offer the Allegretto platform, which is a femtosecond laser that allows us to predictably increase the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of sharpness. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision, with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereovision. Zeiss Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik Provision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America."

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■ SAFETY: Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13

Find two ways to escape the flames

PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — The fire department will emphasize escape routes during Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 7 to 13.

The Pelham Fire Department has many activities lined up to remind everyone to "Have 2 Ways Out," said fire prevention officer Saskia Holditch.

Many people underestimate how fast fire spreads, so they don't take escape planning seriously, she said.

"The reality is that when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes," she said.

"It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and exit quickly when the smoke alarm sounds."

It is important to have a home fire escape plan that

prepares your family to think fast and exit quickly when the smoke alarm sounds.

"What if your escape route is blocked by smoke or flames? That's why having two ways out should be a key part of your plan," she said.

The Pelham Fire Department plans a fun and activity-packed Fire Prevention Week.

Fire crews from the volunteer associations will be visiting homes to check if smoke alarms are installed and working.

Schools in Fonthill will receive visits from firefighters on their trucks.

On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the new Pelham Fire Station No. 2 in Fenwick and Pelham Fire Station No. 3 in North Pelham will hold open houses.

On Thursday, Oct. 11, firefighters with their truck

will visit the Pelham Public Library to talk about at 1 p.m.

In the evening, they will pass out information from a booth at the Pelham Farmers Market, which runs from 4-8 p.m. to Oct. 13.

On Friday evening, Oct. 12, there will be more fun activities for adults and kids at the Fonthill Public Library, with contests and demo's and prizes to be won. It begins at 6 p.m. Library activities while free require advance registration.

"We invite everyone to come out and join us," said Holditch. "The library has helped us by organizing some great activities and the new Farmers Market offered us a smooth."

For more information call 905-892-3943 or go to www.pelham.ca/Departments/FireServices/FirePreventionWeek.



On Tuesday, Oct. 9, the new Pelham Fire Station No. 2 in Fenwick will hold an open houses

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■ COUNCIL: Appeal to Ontario Health Ministry

Pelham to submit bid for new urgent care centre

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

onded by Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp.

"If we see the need for it, let's just say it," said Papp.

In his final report Friday, Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith recommended building a new south Niagara hospital in the area of the QEW and Lyons Creek Rd. in Niagara Falls, and two urgent care centres in the south.

They would replace current hospitals in Welland, Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls.

Smith did not suggest locations for the urgent care centres. That would be left to the Ontario Health Ministry and Hamilton Niagara

Halton and Brant Local Health Integration Network.

Rybik said it should be in or near Pelham, to balance the Niagara Falls location of the hospital.

Papp echoed his concern and added the town should be sure that it wants it.

"If you don't say it, it won't happen," he said.

Mayor Dave Augustyn,

delivering a report on Smith's recommendation, said he told Smith that with a hospital in Niagara Falls, Pelham residents would likely use the new hospital in St. Catharines.

He said Smith told him they would be welcome at whichever hospital they choose.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley

said "we're central to the whole region" as a strong point for selecting Pelham.

Currently the town does not have a hospital or urgent care centre run by the NHS.

TOWN COUNCIL IN BRIEF

■ Town council received its draft heritage master plan from consultant Cad Bray.

He said it reflected the town's Official Plan and can be used not only to enhance culture but also as an economic tool to strengthen local tourism.

■ Angela Carter, of Angela Carter Enterprises, delivered a priorities report developed at a workshop on the town's strategic plan workshop on Aug. 29. Through the priorities the vision of the plan can be sustained and moved along.

■ Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said we now have a game plan prioritized" that council can show the public where it is going.

■ Eleanor McMahon, president of Share the Road, urged council to apply for a bicycle-friendly community designation. Hamilton and Welland have recently received designations, which can be used to enhance a community's economic appeal.

■ The Pelham Active Transportation Committee backed up her appeal.

■ Town council passed a resolution asking Niagara Region to establish a school zone along Regional Rd. 20 to accommodate a current and a future school. It would stretch from Hulst St. to Station St.

It asks the region to reduce the speed limit to 40 kph from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Maple Crest School will move to Hillcrest and Region Rd. 20 while St. Alexander Catholic School is at Station St.

■ Council asked staff to investigate process and costs of providing wireless Internet service in downtown Fonthill and Fenwick.

Town council is bidding for one of two proposed urgent care centres for south Niagara.

A motion by Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybik for town staff to investigate a possible centre for Pelham was sec-



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VET RETIRES

WELLAND — Dr. Michael Finnigan waves goodbye to The West Main Animal Hospital after 34 years of putting the city's four-legged friends before himself.

Finnigan opened his veterinary practice on July 4, 1978, at 157 West Main St. and dedicated his life to it. The practice moved to Broadway Ave. in 1994.

Finnigan spent most of his career fighting for the rights of animals in Welland and the Niagara region. His patients knew him as a gentle doctor who went out of his way to help pets in need.

He and his wife, Leah, were instrumental in creating a welcoming atmosphere at the animal hospital and they have always placed an emphasis on customer service and patient care.

Doctors at the clinic including Drs. Aron Bhan, Madeline Zeller, Nicole Denouden and Kristin Butler are holding a reception this Saturday to wish Finnigan a happy retirement. If runs 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the hospital. All past and present clients are welcome. Food and drink will be provided.

SEARCHING FOR CLUES

GRIMSBY — Niagara Regional Police are searching a home at 4 Arrowhead Lane in Grimsby as part of their investigation into the disappearance of Shana Carter.

The 25-year-old woman was last seen about 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 4, 2010, when she left her home on Arrowhead Lane on foot. Police have said they believe Carter was the victim of foul play.

The search of the house will continue for an undetermined amount of time, police said. They did not say if the house at 4 Arrowhead Lane is where Carter lived.

The NRP offered a \$25,000 reward in the case in June. They searched a Grimsby pond the following month for evidence related to Carter's disappearance.

LIONS CLUB FUNDRAISER



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Brian Buchanan of the Fonthill Lions Club sells tickets on the club's major fundraising draw for local charities at the Niagara Food Festival. Prizes include a big-screen TV, \$1,000 cash and stainless steel barbecue. Draw is Oct. 16.

■ SOCCER CHAMPS



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Meridian Credit Union U11 Boys are the NYSL League Champions 2012. Team members include, front row from left: Bradley Steele, Lucas Fast, John Hignell, and Sophie Scholke, Zachary Peirano, Matthew Sales, Devon Thibault, and Connor Farnum. Back: Stuart Macpherson (head coach), Mitchell Weidt, Joshua Gier, Hayden Milan, Evan Macpherson, Reid Murray, Nicholas Chambers, Elliott Song and Manning Fast (assistant coach). Absent: Brandon Johnson, Campbell Veld and Joshua Schooley.

■ COMMEMORATION



JOE CSEH Tribune Photo

The Air Force Association ensign is raised at Welland Civic Square by, from left, Capt. Bill Greenwood, president of 484 Wing, and Christopher Borowski and flight sergeant Jesse Maurice, both of the 87 Eagle Royal Canadian Air Cadets. The flag was raised following a procession down East Main St. commemorating the Battle of Britain Sunday.

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■ GOING FOR A RIDE AT THE FAIR



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Lucas Bassi goes for a cruise at the Niagara Regional Exhibition on Saturday.

■ NIAGARA FOOD FEST



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Marianne Stewart of Fenwick Subs and Home Baking was one of the community food vendors who enjoyed a good weekend at the Niagara Food Festival in Welland.

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WARTS

Warts are a common viral skin infection caused by human papilloma viruses. In general warts on the hands and feet are harmless and most resolve on their own. However, they can cause embarrassment and some discomfort. There are a couple of over-the-counter (OTC) remedies that may help to treat these kinds of warts.

Infection with HPV occurs with skin-to-skin contact. Warts are caused by viruses and are passed from person to person. A common way of contracting the virus is by walking barefoot in public pools, showers etc.

About 30% of warts clear spontaneously in six months and 65% to 78% clear in two years without any treatment. However, most people would like to resolve warts more quickly than this. Salicylic acid is a first line OTC option. This medicine slowly destroys virus-infected skin and may stimulate the immune response of the person infected through mild irritation, which in turn helps clear the infection. There are a number of salicylic products available. They range in concentration from 17% to 40%. A 40% product should be used for plantar warts. The use of salicylic acid on facial warts is not recommended because of a potential risk of hypo- and hyperpigmentation (skin discolouration).

There is a bit of a regimen to follow with salicylic acid products. Before treatment the warts should be soaked in warm water for the minutes. Then, an emery board or pumice stone should be used to remove dead tissue. The salicylic acid treatment should then be applied. Treatment may need to be continued for up to 12 weeks. If the wart causes pain, patients can take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for the discomfort. Examples of OTC salicylic acid wart removal products include Compound W, Dr. Scholl's Clear Away Plantar, and Dusifilm Wart Remover.

Cryotherapy (freezing) is another common wort removal treatment. This causes irritation and tissue destruction so that the individual mounts an immune response against the virus. Doctors typically use liquid nitrogen which freezes tissue to -196°C. There are also home cryotherapy systems available. These contain dimethyl ether and propane (DMEP). Examples include Dr. Scholl's Freeze away wart Remover, Dr. Compound W Freeze off. Evidence shows DMEP and liquid nitrogen are fairly similar in efficacy. After application of cryotherapy a blister is formed under the wart. The frozen skin and wart falls off after about ten days and reveals newly formed skin underneath. It is recommended that OTC cryotherapy only be repeated three times usually in ten day intervals.

The use of duct tape as a wort treatment has gained popularity. By putting duct tape over the warts they think the virus is deprived of oxygen which causes irritation and stimulates the immune response to the virus. Typical administration involves applying silver duct tape over the wort and removing a week later. Scrubbing the area with an emery board and leaving it open over night. Then reapplying duct tape. Silver duct tape has been shown to be more effective than clear duct tape, possibly because of the adhesive.

There are also a number of prescription products that can be used for warts if OTC treatments are ineffective. Patients with diabetes should consult their physicians before beginning treatment for their warts. Also, genital warts must be treated by physicians and are not suitable for treatment with OTC methods.

In general OTC wort treatments are effective, however, it may take several weeks for the warts to be removed. For proper selection of a treatment method come in and speak to your pharmacist.

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Sylvia has added "novelist" to her list of accomplishments with the release of "Theater's Daughter". Sylvia Tyson is one half of the internationally renowned folk duo Ian and Sylvia. Sylvia has recorded ten solo albums since the duo split in 1975, and since 2000 has been recording and performing with the group Quartette. She has also had a

distinguished radio and television career, both in music and documentaries. Sylvia Tyson is a member of the Order of Canada and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. Tues., Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. \$30. Buy tickets ahead. Special price of \$30 for 4 readings including Brad St.ine, Eva St.ine, and Elizabeth Hay. Special thanks to Zest Fonthill. We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$154 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

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If you have wondered: What to do with the family home? How divorce can leave you asset rich and cash poor? The importance of having good credit. Listen to three experts share their knowledge to help you through this troubling time. Free with a donation of a non-perishable food item or monetary donation to Pelham Cares. Tues., Oct. 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

JAPAN, LAND OF SHRINES, TEMPLES, PAGODAS AND CASTLES

Take an armchair trip to Japan with photographer Les Check. We will visit sites such as Kamakura, a very popular tourist destination which offers numerous temples, shrines and other historical monuments and is home to the famous giant Buddha. The Hachimangu shrine is Kamakura's most important shrine. We will stay at the Hotel Hachimangu. We will have great Zen temples and visit Nagoya castle. We will end at the city of Kyoto, a treasure house of Japanese riches and Japan's capital for more than 1100 years. Mon., Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m., \$4. Please register ahead.

SOCK-MANIA KNITTING CLASS HITS FENWICK

Do you knit but have never tried making socks? This class is for you. Learn basic sock construction from the cuff down. Elaine Anderson, sock addict, will show you how to make a great pair of knitting socks. Thurs., Oct. 4 - Nov. 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Maple Acre branch. Register ahead in person. \$60. Knitting experience is required.

FIRE PREVENTION "HAVE 2 WAYS OUT"

This fun family event is designed to have all ages participate in fire prevention. Raffles, movie, demonstration by the extraction team, extinguisher training, scavenger hunt, contests and more. The Pelham Fire Department will be on hand to answer all your fire safety questions. The Fire Prevention Week theme for this year is "Have 2 Ways Out." Friday, October 12 at 6 p.m. Free. Please register ahead.

WHAT'S COOKING @ THE LIBRARY?

Mel and Jessica, our own Pelham Library gourmets introduce some of our latest cookbooks at the library. Taste test some of the recipes. Thurs., Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Maple Acre branch. \$3. Please register ahead.

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AROUND TOWN

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SCHOOL REUNION** At 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Pelham Evangelical Friends Church, 940 Haste Street South. Donation for refreshments \$5. For information www.pelhamcornersreunion.webs.com

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

PELHAM HIGH REUNION The 7th Pelham (District) High School Reunion will be held on from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Stratford Golf Club, 105 Pelham Street, Welland. Registration is \$10 at the door. For more info e-mail pelhamhighreunion@gmail.com or call 905-892-7090.

ONGOING

MAPLE ACRE BOOK CLUB 4th Tues. at 11:00 a.m. Jessica Stewart leads this lunch hour discussion. \$10 includes sub lunch and drink. Please register the month ahead in order to pick up your book. Meets upstairs at Maple Acre Branch.

TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO

St. Ann's Parish, 834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, 7 p.m. Continues every Tuesday to the end of June. Wheelchair accessible. Chance to win \$100. 905-892-6123.

ST. ALEXANDER PASTA NIGHT First Thursday of every month at St. Alexander Church, Town Square, Fonthill. Admission: \$9 for adults, \$4 for children age four to 12 and children under three free. All you can eat red and white sauce penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salads and more. Catered by Antipasto's.

FENWICK LIONS FISH FRY every second Friday at Fenwick's Centennial park from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Large two-piece dish of haddock and fries \$10, one piece \$8. For cole slaw add \$1. This 15-Friday season runs from April to October fish fry dates are: Sept. 21, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19.

PELHAM FARMERS MARKET runs each Thursday evening market from 4:30 p.m. to dusk in the parking lot of the Pelham Municipal

Building in Fonthill. The weekly sale of local produce, flowers and agricultural products continues weekly until Oct. 25.

FONTHILL LEGION LUNCH each Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 612 hall on Regional Rd. 20 east of downtown Fonthill. \$9 with takeout available. Main dish plus dessert, tea and coffee.

ART CLASSES WITH BEVERLY SNEATH Adult Classes Acrylics Monday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. starting Sept. 10, and Watercolour 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Studio 1341 Eppingham St., Ridgeville Watercolour Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Niagara Central Hobbies 395 St. Paul St., St. Catharines Call 905-892-5868 bevsneath@yahoo.ca www.bevsneath.com

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ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August. 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Rapeli Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd., Welland. For info call 905-67-3914.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY of Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets the third Monday of each month, except July and August. 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Alzheimer Society, 403 Ontario St. Unit 1, St. Catharines. For info call 905-687-3914.

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ST. CATHARINES

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A CAPPELLA NIAGARA MEN'S CHORUS invites singers for fun, fellowship, and fabulous 4-part harmony every Tuesday at 7:30 PM at St. John Ambulance, 5734 Glenholme Ave. at High St. in Niagara Falls. For info call Bob - 905-232-2336. Come and sing with us. You'll be glad you did!

Around Town is a coming events service for non-profit groups in Pelham. Please make submissions by e-mail to wayne.campbell@sunmedia.ca or by fax to 905-732-3660.

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